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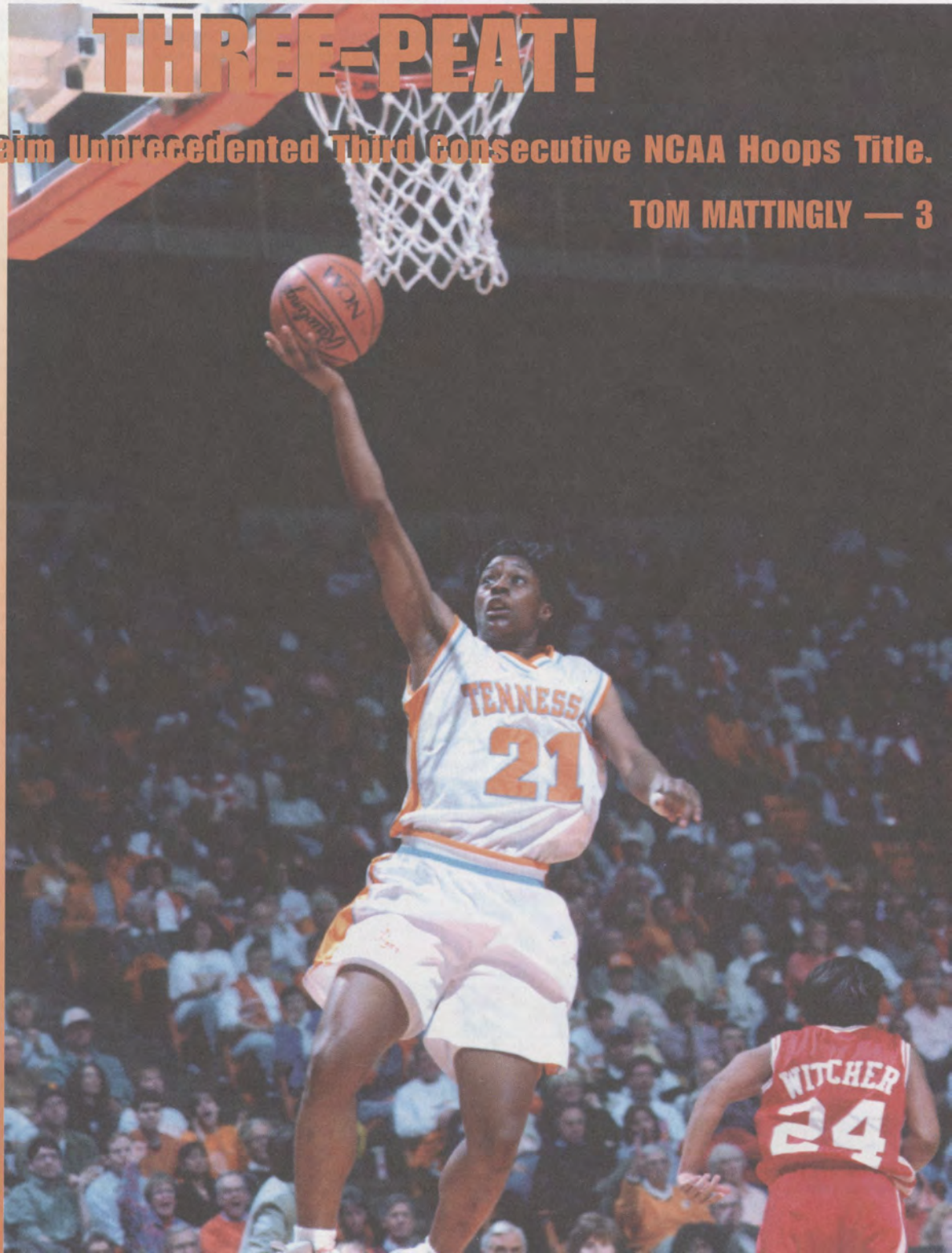
Vol. 20, No. 19/April 1, 1998

Smokey Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS



THREE-PEAT!

Lady Vols Claim Unprecedented Third Consecutive NCAA Hoops Title.

TOM MATTINGLY — 3

INSIDE:

4 VOLS FALL IN FIRST ROUND OF NCAA TOURNEY
--ROB HARDIN

8 COACH FULMER'S THOUGHTS ON SPRING PRACTICE.
--COACH PHILLIP FULMER

Wyant, Hamilton and Bryant Promoted

Gary Wyant, Tennessee football coach Phillip Fulmer's top administrator for the past four years, has been named the Vols' Senior Associate Athletic Director.

Athletic Director Doug Dickey announced the appointment of Wyant as successor to Mitch Barnhart, who resigned last month to take the job as athletic director at Oregon State.

In related developments, Mike Hamilton was promoted to Associate Athletic Director for Development and Marketing, and Chip Bryant was appointed Director of Marketing under Hamilton.

"Gary's done an outstanding job as Associate Athletic Director for Football Operations and has earned the promotion," Dickey said. "He will help me in working with some of our sports programs, in negotiating contracts and in other areas previously filled by Mitch Barnhart."

Dickey also revealed that Wyant will be responsible for a new area previously not allowed in college sports. He will oversee UT's involvement with outside employment of athletes under legislation that was recently passed by the NCAA.

Wyant, 58, a graduate of Wichita State, coached football at Wichita State, Florida State, Georgia, Tennessee and Texas Tech. He became Fulmer's administrative aide in 1994 after spending 15 years as a vice president of First Union National Bank of Tennessee.

A native of Wichita, Kan., Wyant played quarterback and safety for his hometown Shockers from 1958 through 1961. His five-year coaching stint at Tennessee was with the secondary as a member of Bill Battle's staff. Wyant and his wife, Betty, have three children, Greg, Mike and Jennifer.

Hamilton's previous title was Associate Athletic Director for Development. The 34-year-old fund-raiser grew up in Brevard, N.C., is a graduate of Clemson and worked in development at both Clemson and Wake Forest before joining the Tennessee staff. He and his wife, Elizabeth, are parents of a two-year-old daughter, Madison.

Bryant, 27, had served three years as Associate Director of Marketing before his promotion. A UT graduate, Bryant grew up in Brentwood. He and his wife, Kym, have a two-year-old daughter, Ashlyn.

Morland Makes Farmer's All-America

Senior track and field captain Chris Morland added an All-America award to his resume when Successful Farming Magazine named him to its All-American Farm Farm Team.

Morland, a Wildlife Management major, stands as one of the Southeastern Conference's top athletes in the javelin with a career-high throw of 237-6. The Westmoreland, Kan., native also garnered a fifth-place finish in the event at the 1996 SEC Outdoor Championships and finished 16th at the NCAA Outdoor Championships that same year before redshirting in 1997. A $1000 donation will be made in Morland's name to the general scholarship fund at the University with Morland and his parents receiving a plaque honoring his selection.

Qualifications for the award included possessing a strong agriculture background, participating in a collegiate sport and being recognized as an academic success.

Pesek Captures NCAA Platform Title

Junior All-America Kathy Pesek became the third Lady Vol swimmer or diver in the last four years to capture an individual title at the NCAA Championships, when she won the platform competition. Pesek joined Tracy Bonner (3m diving—1995) and Nicole deMan (50m free—1996) to achieve that feat. Pesek, a five-time All-America, scored 659.65 points to outdistance Texas' Laura Wilkinson by over 26 points and establish an SEC, a school and a personal record in the process.

Iacovino To Resign After Season's End

Lady Vol head rowing coach Susannah Iacovino recently announced her intention to resign, effective at the end of the 1997-98 campaign. Iacovino, who intends to pursue a doctoral degree, has been the squad's only coach during its three-year history and led the Varsity 4+ to a berth in the inaugural NCAA Championships last year.

VOL STUDENT-ATHLETES SELECTED TO 1998 NCAA FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

University of Tennessee student-athletes John Dickson (track) and Kenyail Norris (softball) have been selected to participate in the second annual NCAA Foundation Leadership Conference, presented by Entergy Corporation, to be held May 25-28, 1998, at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. They are part of a group of 370 student-athletes from 224 universities.

This forum will provide the opportunity for NCAA student-athletes to discuss and explore critical issues facing their peers around the country, to enhance their leadership skills, and to promote better communication among student-athletes, coaches, administrators, faculty and communities. Student-athletes were nominated from NCAA member institutions, including those which participate in the CHAMPS/Life Skills program.

Dickson, a sophomore from Kingsport, runs the 800 and 1500 meters for the Vol track team. He has a 3.96 GPA in Accounting, earned recognition by the UT Athletics Board as a freshman scholar-athlete for having the highest GPA among male student-athletes in 1997 and has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America and Champions for Christ. Norris, a junior from Grand Prairie, Texas, is a three-year starting outfielder on the Lady Vol softball team. This year, she is hitting .282 with 19 RBI. A Whittle Scholar, she has earned a spot on the Lady Vols (1996 and 1997) and SEC Academic Honor Roll (1997). She is majoring in Engineering Science, with a bio-medical engineering specialization.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

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From the Editor

THREE-PEAT!

It never gets old. Tennessee roared out of the gate to a 19-6 lead and never looked back to annex its sixth NCAA title in 11 years, taking the measure of old rival Louisiana Tech by a 93-75 count.

It was an Orange letter evening for Pat Summitt's team as Tamika Catchings led the way with 27, MVP Chamique Holdsclaw added 25 and Kellie Jolly threw in 20, none bigger than two threes she made in the second half to quell a mild Tech rally.

The Lady Vols finished 39-0 (first wall-to-wall undefeated season in team history) and dispelled all the doubters who wondered if a team could ascend to another NCAA title with four freshmen playing pivotal roles.

They could. They hit the Lady Techsters, who defeated the 1996-97 national champs twice, with a 55-point first half that was a clinic in high-powered basketball. It was an amazing 20 minutes of basketball.

You want heroes in Orange. You got 'em.

With only one senior, the ever-inspirational Laurie Milligan, who has now played in four NCAA final games, the future seems unlimited for this bunch, who not only win, but seem to enjoy each moment.

Holdsclaw, who has won seven straight championships (four in her native New York and three now here at Tennessee), led the way with a double double: 11-25 from the field and 10 boards. Every time the Lady Vols needed her, here she came like the Lone Ranger, riding over the hill, ready to take her team to the proverbial next level.

Catchings, who glides down the lane as effortlessly as she throws up her jumper from outside, had 27 points and seven boards in another impressive performance. Jolly, the Sparta point guard who really does nothing but win, ran the Vol attack with precision and also rose to the occasion when needed. Tech was supposed to have an advantage in the back court, but from start to finish the Lady Vols had the right response to everything Tech threw at them.

The rebounding margin was 47-34, 24-12 in the first half, as the Lady Vols were dominant in the paint.

"Every championship is special," head coach Pat Summitt said. "It's about the relationship with the players. This team is so special."

The Lady Vols, who defeated Tech 75-61 back in November, put a punctuation mark on banner season, winning in front of a Tennessee-dominated crowd that turned Kemper Arena Orange and White.

Louisiana Tech (75) Maxwell 7-12, 0-0, 15; Wilson 2-6, 0-0, 4; Burras 9-16, 1-5, 19; Stallworth 0-6, 2-2, 0; Jackson 11-25, 0-0, 26; Cochran 0-0, 0-0,0; Scheppmann 1-5, 0-0, 3; Gilmore 0-0, 2-2, 2; Bowman 2-3, 0-1,4. TOTALS 32-73, 5-10, 75.

Tennessee (93) Holdsclaw 11-25, 3-4, 25; Catchings 8-16, 11-13, 27; Stephens 0-2, 0-0, 0; Randall 4-9, 2-4, 10; Jolly 7-10, 2-2, 20; Butts 1-1, 0-0, 2; Elzy 0-1, 0-0, 0; Milligan 0-0, 0-0, 0; Greene 0-0, 0-0, 0; Laxton 0-0, 0-0, 0; Clement 3-4, 0-0, 6; Geter 1-1, 1-2, 3. TOTALS 35-69, 19-25, 93.

Halftime Score: Tennessee 55, Louisiana Tech 32.

(EDITORS NOTE: Look for more NCAA coverage in our next issue, complete with an interview with Summitt on the season just completed. We'll also look at the welcome home ceremonies on March 30.)

—Tom Mattingly

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NCAA Tournament Action...

Vols drop overtime thriller!

For those who didn't believe there was such a thing as "March Madness" there was plenty of evidence of it in Tennessee's first round NCAA Tournament game with Illinois State.

Neither team could manage more than a nine-point lead, and the game was decided on a last second layup. Unfortunately for the Vols, it was Illinois State who scored last and took an 82-81 win over Tennessee.

In front of almost 15,000 fans in Sacramento's ARCO Arena and an East Coast prime time audience, the Redbirds and Vols showed why one of the 64 spots in the tournament is so coveted by college basketball teams.

Even though Tennessee failed to pick up its first NCAA Tournament win since 1983, the game was exciting and gave Big Orange faithful something to look forward to next season.

The loss dropped Tennessee to 20-9 on the season. Illinois State (25-5) moved on to play the No. 1 seed in the West, Arizona.

That last-second shot was made by Dan Muller with 1.9 seconds on the clock in overtime. It was his eighth point of a game in which he played the entire 45 minutes. Vegas Davis' heave at the buzzer was no good and the season was over for the Orange and White.

"That was a great game," Muller said. "To get the ball in that situation is every player's dream. You never want it to be too hard of a shot. Luckily, it wasn't tonight."

But it was unlucky for the Vols, who had taken an 81-80 lead on a C.J. Black layup. The play was set up when Tony Harris penetrated the lane then dished the ball to a wide-open Black for the shot with 15 seconds remaining in the extra period. That was the fifth lead change in overtime, but the Redbirds were able to answer for the win.

The Vols made it into overtime by overcoming a nine-point deficit with 7:13 left in the second half.

After trailing 66-57, Tennessee got even at 70-70 on Black's rebound shot with 2:51 left.

Black's dunk with 1:13 to play put the Vols back in front, 72-70, but Steve Hansell's drive tied the score. After a timeout, Brandon Wharton missed a 3-pointer with 30 seconds left. The Redbirds had the chance to win it, but Rico Hill's jumper with 3 seconds left rimmed out.

Tennessee opened a nine-point lead in the first half, but back-to-back Illinois State 3-pointers cut the Vol lead to 41-38 at the half.

It was also a night when the Vols could not get things going from the outside. The zone defense of the Redbirds provided problems throughout the game. The Vols finished the game hitting 29-79 shots for 36.7 percent.

Wharton had a game high 23 including four 3-pointers, but was limited to only six points after the first half. Rashard Lee and Tony Harris struggled from the field the entire game. They finished a combined 5-31 and 1-14 from behind the

Freshman point guard Tony Harris was a major factor in the resurgence of the Vol basketball team this season. Harris finished the season averaging 14.2 points a game, second only to junior guard Brandon Wharton (15.2). Harris led the team in assists with 113.

arc.

"It was just one of those nights when it wouldn't fall," Tony Harris said. "I took good shots, and they just didn't fall. The good thing about being a freshman is that you get another chance. The season is over, but it is not long before it is time to crank it back up again."

Despite foul trouble, Black turned in a solid performance. He hit 8-12 from the field and finished with 18 points. He also added a blocked shot that gave him 73 for the season, easily eclipsing Doug Roth's mark of 60 set in the 1988-89 season. He led the SEC during the regular season with blocks per game at 2.6.

Hill led Illinois State with 22. LeRoy Watkins added 18, and Hansell contributed 16 points.

This season is behind them now, but the future looks bright for the Vols.

"I told them this loss should leave a hunger in their stomachs to get back in the tournament," assistant coach Chris Ferguson said.

Midnight Madness is less than seven months away and so is more hoops success for the Volunteers.

—Rob Hardin

Coach Jerry Green and his staff promised to bring a more uptempo style of play to Tennessee basketball. More importantly the style of play brought more people to see Tennessee win 20 games for the first time in the '90s.

NCAA BOX SCORE

Illinois State 82, Tennessee 81 (OT)

Illinois State (25-5)

Hill 6-23 7-11 22, Muller 3-7 0-0 8, Watkins 6-14 6-6 18, Hansell 5-5 5-5 16, Cartmill 3-5 2-2 9, Smiley 0-0 0-0 0, Pierson 0-2 0-0 0, Gibbons 2-4 5-8 9. TOTALS 25-60 25-32 82.

Tennessee (20-9)

Lee 4-18 0-0 9, Black 8-12 2-2 18, T. Harris 3-5 0-0 6, A. Harris 1-13 8-11 10, Wharton 8-21 3-3 23, Green 3-5 0-0 7, Baker 0-1 2-2 2, Moore 0-0 0-0 0, Davis 0-2 0-0 0, Victor 2-2 2-3 6. TOTALS 29-79 17-21 81.

Halftime score: *Tennessee 41-38. End of Regulation: Tennessee 72, Illinois State 72. 3-point field goals: Illinois State 7-13 (Hill 3-6, Muller 2-4, Hansell 1-1, Cartmill 1-1, Gibbons 0-1), Tennessee 6-29 (Wharton 4-9, Green 1-2, Lee 1-8, Black 0-1, Baker 0-1, Davis 0-2, A. Harris 0-6). Rebounds: Illinois State 41 (Muller 10), Tennessee 46 (Lee 11). Assists: Illinois State 19 (Hansell 6, Cartmill 6), Tennessee 15 (A. Harris 9). Fouled out: T. Harris. A: 15,284*

TENNESSEE BASKETBALL FINAL STATISTICS

Player	FG/FGA	FG%	3FG/3FGA	3FG%	FT/FTA	FT%	AVG	ORB	DRB	AVG	AST	BLK	STL
Wharton	143/365	.392	63/147	.429	92/127	.720	15.2	21	86	3.7	87	6	42
A. Harris	123/336	.366	48/149	.322	90/125	.720	14.2	13	59	2.7	113	2	36
Black	126/243	.519	10/24	.417	103/139	.741	12.6	72	126	6.8	17	73	31
Lee	114/227	.412	33/79	.418	38/67	.567	10.3	51	103	5.3	45	5	26
Hathaway	13/28	.464	1/2	.500	15/29	.517	8.4	15	17	6.4	6	10	5
Victor	78/154	.507	2/6	.333	65/113	.575	7.7	56	103	5.5	20	30	27
Jones	22/42	.523	3/11	.273	7/12	.583	7.7	9	13	3.1	13	0	8
Davis	40/94	.426	20/44	.455	12/22	.546	6.2	19	36	3.1	27	9	22
Green	30/83	.362	18/53	.340	24/35	.686	4.3	8	20	1.2	30	1	22
T. Harris	42/82	.512	0/0	.000	28/65	.431	3.9	60	80	4.8	15	35	18
Baker	17/48	.354	8/27	.296	4/4	1.000	1.8	3	21	1.0	13	6	4
Moore	7/15	.467	0-0	.000	1/7	.143	.7	9	17	1.2	2	7	1
Sewell	2/9	.222	1/5	.200	0/0	.000	.3	2	6	.5	4	0	3
TOTALS	**757/1776**	**.426**	**207/547**	**.378**	**479/745**	**.643**	**75.9**	**338**	**687**	**38.9**	**392**	**174**	**240**
Opponent	727/1790	.406	169/485	.349	425/640	.664	70.6	384	695	41.4	391	129	228

The Lady Vols...
Mideast Regional Champs!

From the beginning of the NCAA Tournament, the Lady Vols have been tabbed to repeat as national champions. It was a lot of pressure to have put on a group with so much youth. But with so much talent come the expectations.

The finals of the Mideast Regional came down to No. 1 seed Tennessee and No. 2 seed North Carolina. Exactly what you might expect when the pairings were handed out, except that the Lady Vols were the only No. 1 seed remaining in the NCAA Tournament.

The matchup was perfect. Two teams who like to run the floor and shoot. Two teams that can play defense. One aiming for their 11th Final Four appearance and the other, given the chance to take out the nation's only undefeated and top-ranked team in the country.

For Tennessee it was another game in which they had to come to play and lay it all on the line against a foe who was not given much of a chance of winning. The Lady Vols have been used to these odds all season, and yet it never gets any easier.

In case you missed the late night action, it was a battle not too soon to be forgotten. The final result was a 76-70 win that sent Tennessee to Kansas as the Mideast Regional champs, but there was a question of could Tennessee hold off the hard-charging Tar Heels.

The game was fast-paced and during a five minute stretch neither team could buy a basket in the first half. But they sure did run up and down the court. Both sides were showing signs of fatigue.

Tennessee opened up an early 15-10 lead thanks to Chamique Holdsclaw. But then she went cold. She finished the half with 12 points, but it was Semeka Randall who was taking up the slack, scoring 10 points, grabbing four rebounds and having four steals. She was up to the challenge.

North Carolina was not about to back down from Tennessee. Carolina's Tracy Reid, an All-America herself, finished with 20 points, but was held to single digits in the first half.

A back and forth affair in the first half left Tennessee with a six-point margin going into intermission.

The Tar Heels came out firing in the second half and took the lead 34-33 on a layup and a foul shot with just over 18 minutes to go in the game.

The lead for the Tar Heels ballooned to 12 with about eight minutes to go. Coach Summitt called for a timeout and Tennessee responded.

"We knew we did not want to lose," Tamika Catchings said. "Pat came in and said, 'You guys are getting beat at your own game. 'That picked us up the most. We started playing the Tennessee game and it got us back in the game."

Over the next seven and a half minutes the Lady Vols went on a 17-5 run to tie the score. Fueled by their defense and backed by the Orange and White faithful which had filled Memorial Gym, the Lady Vols struck gold and led 68-67 never to trail again.

That would be the last lead the Tar Heels would have as Tennessee hit their free throws (13 for 13) down the stretch and pulled away for the 76-70 win.

An intense and unbelievable night had culminated in a return to the Final Four for a shot at the unprecedented third straight and sixth national crown.

Freshman Teresa "Tree" Geter (left) came up big against North Carolina, scoring 11 points and grabbing eight boards in helping Tennessee overcome a 12-point second half deficit to win the Mideast Regional 76-70.

As for Coach Summitt, "In March, it's survive and advance," Summitt said. "I'll take it and move on. We probably won't even watch this tape, just get ready for our next opponent."

The Lady Vols next opponent turned out to be a familiar one, as No. 9 seed Arkansas, the lowest seed ever to reach the women's Final Four, became Tennessee's next opponent. Tennessee faced the Razorbacks early this year and defeated them 88-58 in Knoxville.

Tennessee 92, Rutgers 60

Teams are finding that staying close for one half is about as good as it gets when playing the Lady Vols. Motivation was also key as Rutgers

began chanting "Tennessee, Tennessee," after their upset win over Iowa State. More teams have found out this season that the task is more difficult to pull off than at first believed.

The game was close in the early going thanks in part to Rutgers' ability to hit the outside shot. The lead was 38-30 at the half courtesy of a last second three-point shot by Rutgers. The second half saw Tennessee dismantle the Scarlet Knights, outscoring them 54-30 over the final 20 minutes. What was even more devastating was that the Lady Vols forced 27 turnovers and held Rutgers to 33.8 percent shooting.

The crowd at Memorial Gym was a definite plus as a highly partisan crowd of 14,711 wore the Orange and White.

Tennessee was guilty of 17 turnovers, but more than made up for it with their 52.2 percent shooting (62.5 percent in the second half) touch and outgunning the Scarlet Knights at the charity stripe (20 of 31 compared to 7 of 13).

Tennessee was lead in scoring by Holdsclaw with 25 points and 10 boards, who was followed by Catchings with 23 points and Randall who had 17 points and a career-high 13 rebounds.

Tennessee 82, W. Kentucky 62

This game was much closer than the score indicates as Tennessee punched out its 20-point margin in the waning minutes of the game. Before then, the Lady Toppers proved to be a formidable opponent as they used their inside game and ball handling skills to keep the game close.

The Lady Vols lead at the half 37-25, and early in the second half saw their lead shrink to six. But then Tennessee just exploded, led by their defense, which created back-to-back steals and, within a span of 30 seconds, the lead was back up to 12. From that point, Tennessee was able to maintain control and stretch the lead to its final margin.

Holdsclaw played like the All-America capping off a post-season career high with 34 points on 15 for 27 shooting. Holdsclaw also tallied 11 boards while Catchings collected 14 boards to go with her 20 points. Tennessee showed no signs of backing down from a bigger Topper front court, and won the game on the boards with a 48-35 advantage. They also held the Toppers to a 35.6 percent shooting percentage and forced 20 turnovers.

The win enabled Tennessee to advance to Nashville for their 17th appearance in the Sweet 16.

Tennessee 102, Liberty 58

The Lady Vols dispatched a scrappy and undefeated Liberty Flames squad in front of 12,577 fans in the first round of action in the NCAA Tournament, with a dominating 102-58 triumph.

Liberty came into the game with a 28-0 mark but was seeded 16th by the NCAA. It was an unfitting end to a season for one team while the Lady Vols began their quest of defending the national title.

Tennessee was lead in scoring by Holdsclaw with 22 points and 13 boards, while four other players scored in double figures. Catchings followed Holdsclaw with 17 points and 13 rebounds, Jolly had 13 points, Randall finished with 15, and LaShonda Stephens picked up her game and finished with 14 points, a season and career high.

POST-SEASON NOTES: For only the second time in the history of the program, the Lady Vol basketball team went over the 300,000 mark for season attendance. Last year, the team drew 329,548 fans to 39 games. After 35 this season, 320,000 had viewed the Lady Vols in action.

Basketball Breaks Wins Record

With the victory over Rutgers, the Lady Vol basketball team surpassed its previous high for wins in a season with 36. The 1988-89 team finished 35-2 and captured the national title. Besides setting a school record, 37 wins (including the one over North Carolina) is also an NCAA record for single-season victories. Tennessee currently owns the nation's longest winning streak at 45 games dating to the start of last season's NCAA Tournament.

Our next issue will be out on April 7, reviewing the Lady Vols in the NCAA Tournament, as well as features on the Vol baseball and softball team, track and field, tennis, and the results from the NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships from Auburn.

—Donnell Field

LADY VOLS BOX SCORES

TENNESSEE 76 NORTH CAROLINA 70

TENNESSEE (76)
Holdsclaw 8-26 13-14 29, Catchings 4-13 3-4 11, Stephens 0-2 0-0 0, Jolly 0-3 4-4 4, Randall 8-19 4-6 20, Clement 0-4 1-2 1, Geter 4-4 3-3 11. TOTALS 24-71 28-33 76.
NORTH CAROLINA (70)
Reid 8-14 4-7 20, Wright 9-16 2-3 21, N. Walker 0-3 0-0 0, Brown 2-9 0-0 4, Teasley 5-12 3-4 13, Gaspar 3-7 2-4 8, Barksdale 1-3 0-0 2, S. Walker 1-2 0-0 2. TOTALS 29-66 11-18 70.

TENNESSEE 92 RUTGERS 60

TENNESSEE (92)
Holdsclaw 11-20 3-4 25, Catchings 8-13 6-6 23, Stephens 1-3 0-2 2, Jolly 4-4 3-3 12, Randall 6-17 5-10 17, Butts 1-1 0-2 2, Milligan 0-0 0-0 0, Greene 0-0 0-0 0, Laxton 0-0 0-0 0, Clement 2-5 1-2 5, Geter 2-4 2-2 6. TOTALS 35-67 20-31 92.
RUTGERS (60)
Lillard 1-2 0-0 2, Miles 2-7 0-0 4, Clemente 0-0 0-0 0, Young 7-21 2-2 18, Pointer 2-10 0-0 4, Gillmore 3-9 1-2 8, Eggleston 0-0 0-0 0, Honeycutt 1-2 0-0 2, Stewart 4-12 2-4 12, Boonen 2-3 1-4 5, Brown 2-5 1-1 5. TOTALS 24-71 7-13 60.

TENNESSEE 82 W. KENTUCKY 62

TENNESSEE (82)
Holdsclaw 15-27 4-6 34, Catchings 8-16 4-6 20, Stephens 4-7 0-0 8, Jolly 1-5 2-2 5, Randall 2-8 6-8 10, Geter 0-2 0-0 0, Clement 2-4 0-0 5, Butts 0-0 0-1 0, Milligan 0-0 0-2 0, Laxton 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 32-69 16-25 82.
W. KENTUCKY (62)
Lunsford 0-5 0-0 0, McCulley 4-10 7-8 16, Le. Johnson 8-14 1-1 17, Townsend 2-6 7-7 12, Witcher 2-7 2-3 6, Mansfield 1-4 0-0 2, Hartley 1-4 0-0 2, Walz 1-6 0-0 2, Britt 1-1 0-0 2, Allen 0-1 0-0 0, Powers 1-1 0-0 3, La. Johnson 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 21-59 17-19 62.

TENNESSEE 102 LIBERTY 58

TENNESSEE (102)
Holdsclaw 11-17 0-2 22, Catchings 6-14 3-6 17, Stephens 5-12 4-4 14, Jolly 4-9 3-3 13, Randall 6-13 3-4 15, Clement 1-3 2-2 5, Geter 3-6 0-0 6, Butts 2-3 1-2 5, Laxton 0-1 1-3 1, Milligan 1-3 2-2 4, Greene 0-2 0-0 0. TOTALS 39-83 19-28 102.
LIBERTY (58)
Kisseleva 4-15 2-2 10, Bliss 1-5 0-0 2, Willie 0-1 0-0 0, Sa. Wilkerson 3-12 4-4 10, Sh. Wilkerson 9-21 2-2 26, Jackson 2-4 0-0 4, Sloof 2-3 1-2 6, Wall 0-3 0-0 0, Bateman 0-0 0-0 0, Reeves 0-0 0-0 0, Ratcliff 0-0 0-0 0, Bintz 0-0 0-0 0, Kong 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 21-64 9-10 58.

Fulmer File...

A Look at Spring Practice!

I'm really excited to get spring practice started with this particular football team. Each team establishes its own personality and attitude as you go along and has its strengths and weaknesses. With the number of people we have going on to bigger and better things, this team has a number of voids to fill. There will definitely be a youthful flavor to this team when you start talking about replacing people like Peyton Manning, Leonard Little, and a number of others who have made great contributions to our program for a long time. That's what makes college football fun, interesting and exciting.

One key for this spring is obviously the staff leadership. We have talked about this during the off season in our meetings and, as we develop the attitude and personality of this team, it is important the staff shows the way. We have had some great leadership here for a number of years, and when you lose that many good players at one time, it is important that find we find committed people who want to be the best they can be and be difference makers. Not just difference makers as players but as people. Peyton Manning, Leonard Little, Jonathan Brown and Bill Duff were great leaders and those kind of people are going to step forward when we are developing them fundamentally and technique-wise. It is also important for this staff to get across to this particular football team how the offense, defense and kicking game work together. We are not individuals trying to do our own thing. People need to think about what they can do individually to help this team, and then have that attitude to make us the best that we can be. That is going to be a great staff challenge not only this spring but through the summer and two-a-days in the fall.

We have 16 scholarship seniors coming back this year. The challenge for them is to be the best they can be as far as leaders on a daily basis. The personalities are there for leadership potential. But it is very important for them to see the whole picture as a team. On the surface, it seems this is a very good group of seniors, and the questions they are going to have to answer are whether they are unselfish, set the right example on and off the field, and will they speak up and be an extension of the coaching staff. The leadership we show as a staff, and the examples shown by the seniors, are going to be two very important parts of the big picture.

Roger Alexander has a chance to be a significant contributor. Joey Mathews is obviously in the thick of things as a competitor for the back-up quarterback role. Jermaine Kent, Joe Reed and Kursten Biggers are guys who we are anxious to see how they will do.

A number of newcomers also have chance to be contributors on this team. Fred Weary did phenomenally well in two-a-days last year before his foot injury. Bobby Graham improved his strength and quickness during the off-season. I can't wait to get Dominique Stevenson on the field and see how he does. He looks like a guy who can really help our team. Burney Veazey has had an outstanding offseason, and has done a lot of work in studying the offense. I mentioned Joey Mathews, and he has an opportunity to get a quick start on the offense this spring. You saw Eric Parker before his injury, and we really missed him.

We have 66 scholarship players going into this spring. We have sat down as a staff and talked about the goals we want to accomplish. The biggest thing is the leadership of this team and who will step up and help us.

We have a number of things we are going to look at this spring, but spring practice is a time to do that. We are going to look long and hard at John Finlayson playing center. He is really a good athlete and a good prospect for us. I do feel like he can make a significant impact there and compete with Diron Robinson for the position there. That is probably the most crucial thing that is happening for us on offense right now. If John doesn't develop as quickly at center as we would like, he certainly will be able to help us somewhere and probably will be back at tight end. Ethan Massa, Josh Tucker, Spencer Riley and Bernard Gooden will also get looks at center during the course of the spring. We have to come out with that person, whoever it is, being a really good player for us at a very crucial position.

We are concerned about depth in the secondary. We lost three starters in the secondary, and we are looking for starters and for depth. Derrick Edmonds is going to move from the fullback/tailback spot and is going to move full time, at least at the start of practice, to see if he can be a starter for us at safety. He is a football player and is a guy who likes to play. He is very smart, very tough and has a lot of experience. I am confident he will be able to help us there.

We are still looking for starters at tight end and will work hard to establish depth on the offense line. Shawn Bryson had a fabulous year for us at fullback, but we need some depth at fullback. Tailback should be a very competitive position. Obviously Jamal Lewis is the leading returner, but there should be a really good battle to see who gets the next most playing time among Travis Henry, Travis Stephens and Dominique Stevenson.

Linebacker depth is still a concern, but we have the numbers. I have been particularly impressed with Eric Westmoreland coming back from his knee injury and I expect him to be a starter. I have been real impressed with Austin Kemp. Although he has been limited with his back injury, he has gotten bigger and stronger, and he has really taken to what we are tying to get done. With some of the other guys, we have a chance to have some depth there. We are hoping Shaun Ellis and Darwin Walker will be dominant defensive lineman for us.

We have put the election of captains on hold. We'll see where we are as a football team and who's stepping up to be the right kind of leaders not just on the field but in all phases of their personal, academic, and athletic life. We'll see what happens from there.

I am excited about this team. There has been a really outstanding standard set for them by the previous teams in front of them. They should know how to get it done and go about getting it done. Now it's just a matter of developing that leadership, character, attitude and mental toughness and getting x's and o's in place.

—Phillip Fulmer

1998 COCA-COLA BIG ORANGE CARAVAN...

TO KICK OFF APRIL 24 IN SEVIER COUNTY!

The ninth annual Coca-Cola Big Orange Caravan begins its 13-stop tour April 24 at Eagles Landing in Sevier County. The Caravan will criss-cross the state in late April and May and will also make stops in Atlanta and Birmingham.

"The Caravan is a great opportunity for Vol fans to meet Phillip Fulmer, Jerry Green and other staff members face-to-face, and get a snapshot or autograph," said UT Associate Athletic Director Mike Hamilton, coordinator of the event. "Our coaches always enjoy sharing their previews of the upcoming season with Vol fans across the state."

A day of golf with Fulmer, Green and other Vol coaches and staff members will begin in the early afternoon in most locations. A dinner or reception will follow, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Coca-Cola is the official sponsor of the 1998 Caravan.

Persons interested in participating in the golf tournaments should call the local contacts listed below. Those who would like to attend only the evening dinner/programs should call the UT Development Office (423) 974-3011 for more information.

The 1998 Coca-Cola Big Orange Caravan

Date	City	Location	Golf Contact/Phone
April 24	Sevierville	Eagles Landing 1 p.m.	Allen Newton (423)428-2212
April 27	Jackson	Hidden Valley CC 12 noon ***	John New (901)664-4435/422-4282
April 28	Memphis	Wyndyke CC 12 p.m.***	Jana Fuqua (901)372-3876
May 5	Cookeville	Cookeville CC 12 noon ***	Mike Phipps (931)526-5904
May 6	Morristown	Millstone CC 1 p.m.***	George McGuffin (423)587-5711
May 7	Cleveland	Cleveland CC 12 noon ***	Paul Bacon (423)336-5370
May 11	Clarksville	Clarksville CC 12 noon ***	Bill Hoy (931)522-4314
May 12	Nashville	Hermitage Golf Club 1:30 p.m.***	Terry Smith (615)244-2130
May 13	Franklin	The Legends Golf Club 1:30 p.m.***	Steve Kroeger (615)874-2288
May 14	Lewisburg	Saddle Creek Golf Club 1 p.m.	Joe Brandon (931)359-4897
May 18	Chattanooga	Signal Mountain CC 1 p.m.***	Claire Stone (423)974-1218
May 19	Atlanta	Towne Lake Hills Golf Club 12 noon	Allen Vaughn (770)516-8657
May 20	Birmingham	Chace Lake CC 1:30 p.m.***	Jim Sledge (205)942-9604

(All Times Local)

****** Spikeless Shoes Only***

NOTE TO MEDIA: UT coaches and staff will be available for interviews for 30 minutes beginning 1 1/2 hours prior to the scheduled tee time (10:30 - 11:00 a.m. for a noon tee time) and after the golf tournament from approximately 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. local time. For more information regarding advance publicity or media interview opportunities, contact Associate SID David Grim or Tom Mattingly at (423) 974-1212.

Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols... Covering the Games!

A lot of things have changed since I first started covering University of Tennessee sports in 1947, including the way those sports are covered.

One notable difference is that the players are much more available to the press now than they were then. Post-game player interviews, which are such a big part of newspaper coverage today, were virtually non-existent 50 years ago.

I don't recall that there was a specific rule barring reporters from the Tennessee football dressing room back then. I am inclined to think that it was more a matter of the dressing room being regarded as private turf, a sort of sanctuary.

General Bob Neyland, the head coach in those days, was an autocratic figure in these democratic states, and it was no secret that he didn't want his players talking very much to the press, especially after a tumultuous game. On the other hand, the General himself was always available and always courteous. He made it a practice never to criticize an opposing team or coach or the officials who had worked the game, so there wasn't much a chance that anything very controversial was going to come out of his post-game interview.

I do recall one time when he did close the dressing room doors and refused to say very much about the game himself. That was after the 1948 game with North Carolina at Shields-Watkins Field. The Tar Heels won it, 14-7, after a questionable call by an official. Vol guard Chaddy Baker was whistled for clipping UNC's Hosea Rodgers on what would otherwise have been a touchdown run by tailback Hal Littleford. As usual, Neyland would not comment on the call, but there was little doubt that he, and his players, felt that they had gotten the short end of the stick.

As I remember it, Tennessee was not the only place that shielded its athletes from the press in those days. The practice was pretty well universal, and I really can't say specifically when it began to change. I do know that by the time the mid-1960s rolled around, when Doug Dickey was the UT coach, post-game player interviews had become rather commonplace. And again, that was the case elsewhere as well.

In the old days covering UT football or basketball was a much more informal thing. One didn't make appointments to talk with coaches then. Their doors were open, and you could just wander in and start a conversation. Given the massive numbers of writers and sportscasters who cover the beat today, that would be impossible now. There have to be set times for interviews, or the coaches wouldn't have time to get their main work done. The regular weekly press conferences were not held back then, partly because of the smaller number of people involved and partly, in Neyland's case, because he shied like a skittish horse from anything that looked like a microphone.

As far as the quantity and quality of coverage is concerned, I don't see any major advantages for either the old or the new. Player interviews, I felt, consumed too much space after they came along. A certain amount of that was fine, but they began to take up more and more available space with the result, I thought, of turning writers into stenographers. If we go back and study the writings of Grantland Rice and some of the other legends of the profession, we almost never see any player quotes. A sportswriter, for my money, should write his own impression of a game.

There were a couple of things that both Knoxville newspapers did in their game coverage then that are not done now. One was the play-by-play. I used to do that when I first joined *The Knoxville Journal* staff, and I enjoyed it. Play-by-plays were great for historical research. Every snap is in there, along with who carried the ball and how far he advanced. If I were a sports editor with the Sunday section now I think I would reactivate that feature.

And we also had the cartoon stories of the game. Bill Dyer's Dyergram in the News-Sentinel was enormously popular, and Sam Newman, a fine cartoonist, did a similar piece for The Journal for several years. They were fun to read.

One thing hasn't changed. Covering a big game is a massive undertaking. Don't envy the sportswriter for getting in free. He has to sweat some blood to pay for his press pass.

Former Vol

Kevin Nash (1978-80)

Kevin Nash was a member of two NCAA Tournament teams and part of a team that won the 1979 SEC Tournament.

His arrival on the Hill was one year before the arrival of Don DeVoe, and Nash was an integral part of the inside play that helped the Vols post a 39-23 record during DeVoe's first two years at Tennessee.

The Trenton, Mich. native was a key reserve and force under the boards for the Vols during his time in Knoxville. He scored five straight buckets during a key run in a 49-47 win over Kentucky in the 79-80 season.

He is now a professional wrestler and part of the world tag-team champions in World Championship Wrestling (better known as WCW).

Kevin Nash averaged 4.7 points and 4.5 rebounds a game during his three years in a Vol uniform.

A Look At The DiamondVols...

TENNESSEE BOUNCES BACK AGAINST CATS!

After losing two out of three to South Carolina in Columbia, S.C., the Tennessee Volunteers returned to more hospitable confines to restore some order. Coming into the week of March 20-29, the Vols had lost four of their last five.

The Vols returned to Lindsey Nelson Stadium to take on the Kentucky Wildcats.

Justin Ross slugged two home runs, driving in a career-high five runs as the No. 17 ranked Volunteers defeated Kentucky 13-5 in game one.

Kurt Scott (4-1) threw his second complete game of the season, striking out eight while giving up five runs on 10 hits.

Four Vols, including Ross had at least two hits in Tennessee's 14 hit assault. Tennessee took an 8-0 lead in the first when, after two out, Wildcat starter Brandon Webb gave up four walks, and two infield singles before giving up a grand slam to Ross to cap the Vol scoring.

Ross hit his second home run of the game in the bottom of the third to give the Vols a 9-1 lead.

After Kentucky posted another run in the fourth, Sonny Cortez drove in two runs with a double off the right field wall as the Vols took an 11-2 lead after five.

The Vols extended their lead to 13-3 in the bottom of the sixth as Kurt Keene singled and then scored on a Josh Morris triple. Kentucky added two more runs, one in the seventh and one in the ninth to finish off their scoring.

In game two, Cortez collected four hits, including his 12th homer of the season to go along with his six RBIs as Tennessee defeated Kentucky 16-5.

For the second straight game the Vols exploded in the first inning scoring six runs. The inning was highlighted by two run home runs by Cortez and Donnie Ross and a two-run single by Morris. Wildcat starter Josh Paxton, one of five Kentucky pitchers on the day, suffered the loss as he lasted only 1/3 of an inning, facing seven batters.

The Vols took a commanding 10-2 lead after three innings and never looked back. Luke Hudson (4-1) picked up the win going seven innings and allowing four runs on six hits with five strikeouts and one walk. Amos Burdine worked the final two innings.

The Vols also saw Justin Ross extend his hitting streak to 21 games with a leadoff double in the first.

Game three against the Wildcats saw the Vols hitting behind the eight ball as the Wildcats jumped on the Tennessee staff for 13 runs in the first six innings. The Vols had to play catch up the whole afternoon and fell short in the 13-10 loss. The loss left the Vols with an 18-7, 5-4 SEC record.

One of the lone bright spots was that Justin Ross continued his hitting streak with a single in the eighth inning.

Jeremy Brown (2-2) suffered the loss allowing seven runs on seven hits in 3 1/3 innings.

The Vols bounced back with a Tuesday afternoon affair with King College at Lindsey Nelson Stadium.

Tennessee sent Charlie Hunter, who had not pitched in almost three weeks, to the mound to help the Vols get back on track.

After a rough first inning in which King College plated two runs in part to a throwing error by Hunter, the Vols stymied King College and used three home runs to win 15-5. Justin Ross had two hits on the day extending his streak to 23 games. The Vols also collected three homers (Cortez, D. Ross and Morris) to run their season total to 63.

— Jeff Muir

Pitching coach Mike Mack has a full assignment in molding a young pitching staff. Only two return from last season's team.

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The University of Tennessee
Scholar Athlete & Athlete of the Month

ADAM ENGLE

Swimming
Freestyle & Butterfly

Major
Electrical Engineering

GPA
3.77

C.J. BLACK

Basketball
Forward

- Average Per Game in Month of January
  15.5 Points
  7.6 Rebounds
  2.5 Blocks
- Career High 25 Points vs. LSU (1-31-98)
- Career High 13 Rebounds vs. Ole Miss (1-17-98)

The News-Sentinel
Volunteers Magazine

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Presents
The University of Tennessee
Scholar Athlete & Athlete of the Month

CHAD COPENHAVER

Tennis

Major
Public Relations

GPA
3.41

BRANDON WHARTON

Basketball

- Average Per Game in Month of February
  16.5 Points
  3.4 Rebounds
  4.4 Assists
- Career High 29 Points vs. Georgia (2-29-98)

The News-Sentinel
Volunteers Magazine

This Week In Big Orange Country

Tennis Vols continue on roll

The Tennessee tennis team hit a bump in their comeback bid in the SEC. Against No. 28 South Carolina the Vols wound up on the short end of a 5-2 loss to the Gamecocks.

The Vols had won their last three tennis matches on the road before losing to the Gamecocks. The loss dropped Tennessee to 9-3, 4-3 SEC.

The match began with South Carolina taking the doubles point, winning two out of three matches. Tennessee's only win came at No. 3 doubles as Mark Fitzpatrick and Mark Parsons won 8-4.

In singles action Tennessee struggled as the Vols lost at No. 1-4 to give the match to the Gamecocks.

At No. 1 singles, No. 88 Mark Parsons lost to No. 59 Jerome Jourdon 7-6(4), 6-4. In No. 2 singles, Fitzpatrick lost to No. 10 Vladimir Pavicevic 6-4, 6-1. At No. 3, Paul Podbury lost to No. 29 Guillaume Legat 6-3, 6-3. No. 4 singles saw Parsons lose to Tomasz Wawrzyniak 6-1, 6-0.

The Vols' lone wins came at No. 5 and No. 6. Chad Copenhaver defeated Olof Akesson 6-4, 6-2, and Juan Gamboa won over Remy Nagel 6-4, 6-4.

In previous action, the Vols made a move up the SEC ladder with a 5-2 victory over Alabama at the UT Indoor Tennis Center. The Crimson Tide came into the match ranked 20th, while Tennessee was only three slots behind at No. 23.

The win over Alabama was impressive in its own right, but the win was more important because it upped the Vols record to 9-2 overall and 4-2 in the SEC.

Tennessee took the doubles point by sweeping all three doubles matches (No. 1 Copenhaver/Way, No. 2 Gamboa/Podbury, and No. 3 Fitzpatrick/Parsons) for the second straight match.

Singles action proved to be much closer. Parsons, coming into the match with a 31-8 record, grabbed the first singles point at No. 4 by defeating Graydon Oliver 7-6(2), 6-2. At No. 3 singles, Fitzpatrick lost to No. 75 Chris Lopez 2-6, 6-3, 6-0. After a three-match stint at No. 2 doubles, No. 88 Way returned to No. 1 singles where he lost to No. 18 Francisco Rodriguez 6-4, 7-5. At No. 5 singles, Copenhaver blasted Alan Taranga 6-1, 6-2. With the Vols leading the match 3-2, the clinching fourth win came at No. 2 singles. Podbury won the match when Ariel Rivero was disqualified in the third set for three code violations. The score at the time was knotted up 6-7(2), 7-6(3), 2-2. At No. 6 singles, Gamboa took the last point with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Mason Snider.

Tennessee, after upsetting No. 16 ranked Auburn 4-3, could not pull off the same in their match against No. 8 ranked Ole Miss. The Vols lost in a close battle 4-3 at the UT Indoor Tennis Center. The loss snapped the Vols eight-match winning streak.

Tennessee began the match impressively sweeping the doubles matches for the first point. However, after Tennessee secured the doubles point, the Vols struggled through singles play. The Vols lost at No.s. 1-4 singles positions to drop the match. At No. 2 singles, No. 11 Sebastian DeChaunac defeated Way 7-5, 6-3. at No. 3 singles, Fitzpatrick lost to No. 26 Martin Sjoqvist 1-6, 6-1, 6-3. In No. 4 singles action, Copenhaver lost to Vikrant Chada 6-3, 5-7, 6-2. Ole Miss clinched the match with the win at No.1 singles in a match that required three tiebreakers. Podbury fell to Sebastian Lami 6-7(3), 7-6(3), 7-6(7) in a three hour and five minute battle. After Ole Miss had clinched the match, No. 5 and No. 6 were retired to Tennessee, where Parsons and Gamboa had their matches knotted at a set each.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

Mark Parsons has helped to provide some spark for the Vol tennis team this season.

Student Life Gives Athletes A Chance To Give Back

Across the nation on Apr. 6, collegiate athletes will be recognized on national Student-Athlete Day. It is a time to celebrate what is good about those who compete in the collegiate sporting arena and to recognize them for their accomplishments. One of the great works of many students-athletes is the community service projects with which they are involved. For the Lady Vols, the person responsible for helping match needy organizations and eager student-athletes is Jora Odom. as the Assistant Director of Academics and Student Life, Odom helps give the student-athletes a chance to give back to the community.

The University of Tennessee is heavily involved with helping to better Knoxville and the surrounding areas. The opportunities are there for those who want to become involved. Because of the respect the community has for the University and its student-athletes, the demand for the Vols and Lady Vols is high. Because of all that both groups do to facilitate this relationship, the Men's and Women's Athletic Departments are putting together a barbeque to help recognize those that participate in the community service programs.

Assistant Director of Academics and Student Life, Jora Odom.

Student Life employees, Odom and Vince Martin, of the Men's Student Life Department, are setting up this function as well as the half-time program at the Spring football game where all the Vol and Lady Vol student-athletes who earned a 3.0 GPA or higher either cumulatively or in the last semester will be recognized. In addition, former Vol quarterback Peyton Manning, who was selected from across the nation as the National Student-Athlete of the Year, will also be recognized as part of the ceremony.

Being involved with the community activities and fostering a strong bond is a goal of both department. It has a reciprocating effect, with the community wanting to be involved with the University to help better achieve its goals as well.

"Community service is a large part of what we want the Lady Vol experience to include while the student-athlete is here," said Odom. "Because we have so much support within Knoxville and the surrounding areas, we have a lot of requests to have athletes come out and speak to different groups or work with different organizations."

The Lady Vols are involved in many different projects with the community. The Women's Athletics Department has adopted Sterchi Elementary as its primary school. In addition, the Lady Vols and Toyota have joined forces for the Toyota Literacy Program. The staff and student-athletes of the Women's Athletics Department are committed to spending 500 hours throughout the school year reading and interacting with those at Fair Gardens and Sam Hill Family Education Centers.

A number of other organizations are also represented within the Lady Vols' community service program. The Boys' and Girls' Clubs often request the student-athletes to come out and give sport skill demonstrations. Local churches and businesses also ask to have the Lady Vols come to speak at different functions and detail their experiences, while coaches are often requested as motivational speakers or to give "their strategies for success."

Because of their reputation and wide-ranging appeal, Vol and Lady Vol student-athletes serve as tremendous role models for the youth of the community. One final area where the UT student-athletes can help to make a difference is with public service announcements. It is just another way the student-athletes can show their appreciation for the support that has been given to them.

—Brad Laux

Update on Lettermen's Weekend

We have been reporting for the last couple of months about the upcoming Lettermen's Spring Weekend, but did not have a lot of details available. We can now give you a more detailed report.

The Lettermen's golf tournament will be held at Green Meadow Country Club, April 17. Lunch is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Note the earlier lunch schedule. This is to allow more time for people to register and then to progress to the luncheon.

After the luncheon the tournament will begin, as tee time is set for 1 p.m. The only format change is that everyone will play their own ball off of the best drive. Which means each member will have a drive shot, and wherever the best shot landed is where the group will play their own ball.

Prizes will be awarded again this year based on performance. Snacks will also be served following the event while prizes are being given out.

Cost for the lunch, 18-holes of golf and a golf cart is $45 for Lettermen who have paid their dues. Any member who is not current will need to pay their dues as well as the tournament fee.

A letter is in the mail, and you should have received it by now with an entry form enclosed. Send it to the address on the entry form. If not, use the form at the bottom to register. Spaces are filling up, co get yopur reservation in as qucikly as possible.

Other events going on that weekend include the Friday evening baseball game. That evening the University of Tennessee baseball squad will take on Arkansas at Lindsey Nelson Stadium. The Lady Vol softball team will also be holding a tournament that weekend over at Tennessee Field at Tyson Park, just off of Highway 129.

Saturday will start with the Awards Banquet for the East Tennessee Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame at the Foundry. Cost to attend the banquet is $20 and seating is limited. Interested parties should contact Col. Gene Moeller at (423) 974-1219.

The Tennessee baseball team will be in action again against Arkansas at 2 p.m.at Lindsey Nelson Stadium on Saturday.

Following the game there will be a cookout for Lettermen Club members near Neyland Stadium. The cookout is scheduled to start at 5 p.m. Note the change from 4:30 p.m. in our last issue.

Immediately following the cookout, fans are encouraged to attend the Orange and White game at Neyland Stadium. Kickoff is slated for 7 p.m. Fans will be allowed on the field at 5:15 p.m. to get pictures and autographs with the players. There will also be a special presentation at halftime. You don't want to miss this special day filled with activities for everyone.

—Donnell Field

RESERVATION

Please enter me in the lettermen's Golf Tournament on April 17th.

NAME _____ HANDICAP _____ TELEPHONE _____

My team will include: _____ NAME _____ HANDICAP

_____ NAME _____ HANDICAP

_____ NAME _____ HANDICAP

I am enclosing $45.00 entry fee for each of the above (includes lunch, cart, and greens fee)

I will sponsor a hole in the amount of $100.00_____.

PLEASE NOTE: We are only able to reserve space for those golfers who are paid.

****

Please reserve _____places for me and my guest(s) at the Saturday Barbecue, April 18th.

Please return this form to:

Lettermen's "T" Club
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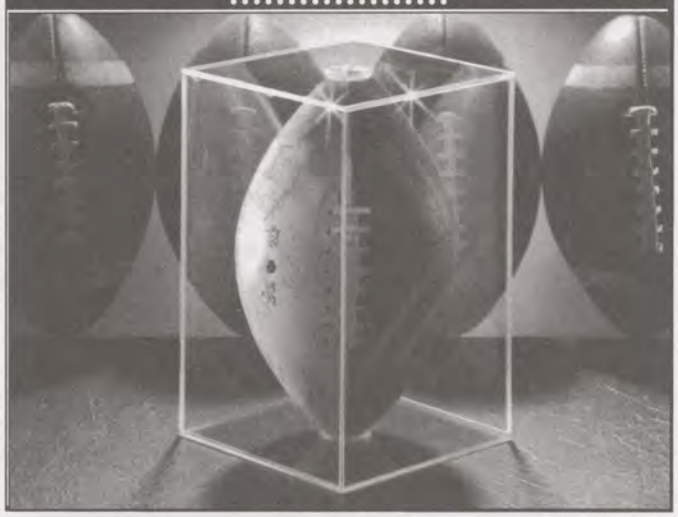

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VASF News and Notes

Football Season Tickets

The 1998 season football ticket renewals and new season ticket applications will be mailed in April. If you have not received your renewal form by April 15, call the ticket office at (423) 656-1200.

For renewing donors, if you are requesting a seating location change, please send a separate note attached to your season ticket renewal form describing the changes requested. Change requests will be considered according to the VASF priority system. The VASF can not guarantee any requests as all changes are contingent upon turnover. Non-donor-based grandfathered seats cannot be changed.

New donors applying for season tickets should order tickets and include a separate note attached to the ticket order form listing any special requests (aisle seat, etc.), as well as listing your top four seating location preferences. If you are ordering more than two tickets, please list your seating preferences (i.e. four together, two pairs, etc.) to help the VASF better seat everyone.

Remember to please adhere to the limits on away game ticket order availability, particularly the Vanderbilt game. Away game tickets will be allocated and assigned according to the guidelines mailed to all donors in February of this year.

Season Football Parking Information

Applications for parking passes will be mailed in early May to donors at the Ridgerunner level and above. Parking will be assigned using the donor's rank in the point system according to the guidelines mailed to all donors in February of this year.

Point System Rankings

The finalized rankings used for all 1998 football priority benefits (away game tickets, parking passes, post-season tickets and home seating change requests) will be included with all season ticket renewal forms and applications.

Get Ready for the Orange & White Weekend

The annual spring football game will be held on Saturday, April 18, 1998, at 7 p.m. in Neyland Stadium. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. and *edsouth fan day* lasts from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The Tennessee baseball team will host Arkansas earlier that day with the first pitch coming at 3 p.m. Tickets for the Orange & White game are general admission and will be on sale over the phone beginning the first week of April. Tickets are $3 for adults, $1 for students under 17, and $6 for a family package. You may charge by phone at (423) 656-1200. The ticket office accepts Visa, MasterCard, or Discover and is open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The BaseVols will host Arkansas for an SEC inter-divisional clash on the same weekend. Friday night's game (7 p.m.) on April 17 brings NewsTalk 99/Cellular One floppy hat night. Saturday's game, set to begin at 3 p.m., will be Campus Cutters Fan Day. Sunday's game (slated for a 2 p.m. start), in addition to being Little League Day, will also be a Fazoli's Fan Appreciation Day.

Baseball Single Game Day Ticket Information

The ticket booth at Lindsey Nelson Stadium will open two hours before the first pitch for each home game this season. Only cash is accepted at the ticket booth. You may also charge your tickets in advance and have them waiting on you at Will Call. Call the Ticket Office at (423) 656-1200 for more details. Game-by-game ticket prices are $5 for reserved seats, general admission seats are $3 for adults and $1 for students 17-years-old and under.

Sea Ray Relays Return to Knoxville Easter Weekend

The Sea Ray Relays, a chance for current and former Tennessee track and field athletes to showcase their talents against hi-caliber world competition as well as other SEC schools, will once again be held at Tom Black Track on the Tennessee campus April 8-11. Admission is free. Come out and see the UT men's and women's track and field teams run for the glory this weekend.

Baseball Parking Information

The parking services office would like to remind everyone not to park in the F (fraternity) lot located in front of Fraternity Row and behind the first base seats of Lindsey Nelson Stadium. Any S (staff) or C (commuter) lot on campus is available for parking on weekends and after 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Little League & Fan Appreciation Sundays

In Lindsey Nelson Stadium, every Sunday is Fazoli's Fan Appreciation Day. Fans will be allowed onto the outfield for autographs and conversations with the Tennessee baseball team immediately following Sunday's games. Also on Sundays, little league baseball players, if they are in their uniforms, will be admitted free into the game to sit in the general admission sections.

Baseball Birthday Parties

This year kids of all ages will have the opportunity to celebrate their birthdays in style with Tennessee baseball. Each complete birthday party includes tickets and beverages for 12. Also included are three large Papa John's pizzas, an autographed baseball for that special birthday boy or girl, a pre-game visit by a Tennessee player or coach, and public address and message board recognition during the game. Each complete birthday party is $80. For more information about this exciting new program, contact the Athletic Marketing & Development Office at (423) 974-1218.

—Steve Sams

The Last Word...

SPRING PRACTICE 1968!

No one who attended the Orange and White game 30 years ago knew that they were a part of history. After all, you've seen one spring game, you've seen them all. Right?

Well, not really. When the final gun sounded on the Orange team's 34-18 win that May day 30 years ago, it marked the end of grass on the floor of Shields-Watkins Field. At least for the period 1968-93. Grass came back in 1994 and has been there ever since. Isn't it great?

There were no ceremonies that day and the official announcement that the historic sod would be pulled up and be replaced by an artificial turf surface would not be made until a later time.

Here's what the 1968 UT Football Brochure had to say about the whole process.

"Someday, when grass has joined the dinosaur in extinction and the lawnmower takes its place alongside the horse-drawn carriage as a relic of a bygone era, Tennessee fans will nostalgically recall the role the University played in the turf revolution of the late 1960s.

"In common with athletic departments the country over, UT lived for decades with the assorted problems attendant to a grass-surfaced football field: concern throughout the summer over whether a sufficient amount of grass would grow, worry that rain or other inclement weather would produce a muddy field on game day, chagrin as the lush green of September yielded to the cleat-worn dark patches of November.

"When Vol officials had learned that the 3M Corporation had perfected an artificial plastic-type surface that not only eliminated the foregoing problems but offered hope as well of drastically reducing knee and ankle injuries as well, they swung into action.

"Athletic Director Woodruff and Coach Dickey headed a delegation that visited 3M headquarters in St. Paul. The Tartan turf, put to every conceivable test, passed with flying colors. Their confidence in the 3M product already bolstered by the success of the Vols' basketball court and outdoor track, Woodruff and Dickey recommended that Shields-Watkins Field be converted to artificial turf for the start of the 1968 season.

"Workmen wasted no time once official approval was flashed in late June. A target date of Sept. 1 was set for completion of installation of the nearly two feet of materials. Final step was the placing of a surface that gave the appearance and feel of honest to goodness grass.

Artificial turf came to Shields-Watkins Field in 1968 and lasted in one form or another until 1993.

"Although any type cleat or shoe may be used on the Tartan field, a special shoe has been developed that will be used by Tennessee and be made available to the Vols' Neyland Stadium opponents. The shoe features 21 cleats of approximately one-quarter inch lengths as opposed to the traditional seven cleats measuring a half-inch each.

"An effort was made in late summer to come up with a name for the UT turf. Among the suggestions were Volunturf, Tennessee tartan Turf, VolunVerd and Vol Sod, none of which exactly took the public by storm. The search for a suitable appellation continued unabated.

"Tennessee's distinction as a pioneer in the use of artificial grass is secure. But within the next year or two, dozens of other schools are expected to follow the Vols in the exciting technological breakthrough. Eyes of the sports world will focus on Neyland Stadium this year as Tennessee takes a revolutionary step that could have far-reaching effects everywhere."

OBSERVATION: That was 1968. It is now 30 years later and grass, once again, covers Shields-Watkins Field.

Artificial turf thus began in the Johnson administration, continued through the Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton years. In addition, John Ward and Bill Anderson were there from the outset on the Vol Network.

Not that artificial turf didn't have its impact. The first game on the new sod saw the Vols rally for a 17-17 tie with Georgia, as the good guys scored eight points after the final gun, a Bubba Wyche TD pass to Gary Kreis and a two-point conversion toss by Wyche to Ken DeLong.

There were a number of other great moments as the Vols compiled a 125-38-7 record on the ersatz surface. That's a winning percentage of .756. The Vols played 50 different teams on the fake stuff. TRIVIA QUESTION: Name a coach or coaches who brought two different teams to play at Neyland Stadium over the period 1968-93. There's one name which might surprise you. be careful. Let us know.

Back to the story.

Here's one man's opinion of the Top 10 high moments on artificial turf at Neyland Stadium: the 1982 Alabama game (Tennessee 35, Alabama 28); the comeback in the 1968 Georgia game; the big plays in the 1971 Penn State game; watching the lights come on before the 1972 Penn State game and, we might add, winning the game which followed; the win over Notre Dame in 1979; the roar of the crowd when the Vol recovered an onsides kick late in the game against Notre Dame in 1990; the rally from 28-3 down against Vanderbilt in 1987; clinching SEC championships in 1969, 1985 and 1989 on the home field; coming from behind to beat UCLA in 1970; and a win over Auburn in 1985, when the Tigers were rated No. 1 in the nation.

We've come a long way in a lot of ways since 1968. There have been a number of great plays on both grass and artificial turf. The game is still played on the field, whatever the surface, and the Vols have done pretty well, regardless.

In any event, that's the way it all appeared in 1968, a time 30 years ago when the Vols were coming off an SEC Championship and trip to the Orange Bowl. Who knows what we'll be writing about in 30 years. Any guesses?

— Tom Mattingly

Win or lose, rain or shine, anywhere & everywhere, Tennessee fans always have a good time. Several Vol faithful made the trip to Sacramento to watch the Vols' first appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 1989. The Vols lost 82-81. On Wednesday while the team practiced, several Vol fans and staff members journeyed to San Francisco to explore the city. Shown here in this photo are: (Back Row) Jim Estep, Jim Lett, Russ McDonald, Don Campbell, Gerry Dickey, James Estep; (Front Row) Will Estep, Mary Lett, Ben Stone, VASF staff member Claire Stone, Barbara Campbell, Kay Fecher, and Mark Fecher. See our coverage on the NCAA Tournament from Sacramento, Calif., in this issue on page 4.

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